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Brad Griffin/Hunter Wallace: 5 Facts You Need to Know

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By [Jennifer Abel](https://heavy.com/author/jenniferabelblog/) (<https://heavy.com/author/jenniferabelblog/>)

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Twitter

Brad Griffin, a.k.a. Hunter Wallace (screenshot from Twitter)

The two White Lives Matter rallies (<https://heavy.com/news/2017/10/white-lives-matter-murfreesboro-rally-protest/>) planned in Tennessee on Saturday (one of which was officially “cancelled” after only slightly more than a dozen people showed up in support of it) were organized by members of various white supremacist groups and their leaders, one of whom was Brad Griffin, also known as “Hunter Wallace,” the “Public Relations Chief” for the League of the South (per his [Twitter bio](https://twitter.com/occdissent) (<https://twitter.com/occdissent>)). Here’s five things to know about Wallace/Griffin and the League of the South:

1 He Cancelled the Murfreesboro Rally Minutes After Its Scheduled Start



Murfreesboro. [@NC5](https://twitter.com/NC5?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) (https://twitter.com/NC5?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)
pic.twitter.com/GzfKe6Cl2u (<https://t.co/GzfKe6Cl2u>)

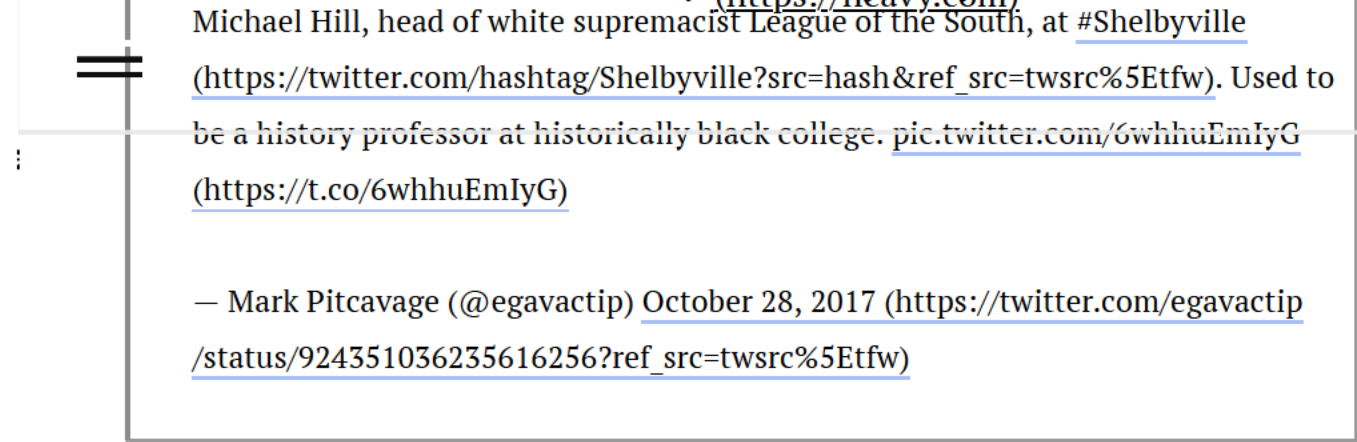
— Matthew Torres (@NC5_MTorres) October 28, 2017 (https://twitter.com/NC5_MTorres/status/924341479782387714?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The Murfreesboro rally [originally scheduled](https://heavy.com/news/2017/10/white-lives-matter-murfreesboro-rally-protest/) (<https://heavy.com/news/2017/10/white-lives-matter-murfreesboro-rally-protest/>) to run from 1 to 4 p.m. local time on Saturday. At 1:03 (according to Twitter timestamps), Griffin (under his Hunter Wallace pseudonym) [took to Twitter](https://twitter.com/occdissent/status/924366139915980800) (<https://twitter.com/occdissent/status/924366139915980800>) to announce “Murfreesboro cancelled.” A minute later he [tweeted](https://twitter.com/occdissent/status/924366372410445830) (<https://twitter.com/occdissent/status/924366372410445830>) an explanation: “Had some intel Murfreesboro was a lawsuit trap. Not worth the risk.”

He later said (<https://twitter.com/occdissent/status/924386238722924545>) the Murfreesboro rally was unnecessary, since the earlier rally in Shelbyville had accomplished its goals: “Murfreesboro was an option. We accomplished what we set out to do in Shelbyville. So we called ot [sic] a day.”

However, other observers suggested the Murfreesboro rally was actually cancelled due to low turnout. Slate reported (http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slatest/2017/10/28/counter_protesters_shout_down_white_lives_matter_rallies_in_tennessee.html) that about 200 people attended the White Lives Matter protest in Shelbyville, compared to roughly 15 in Murfreesboro. (Murfreesboro also saw roughly 500 counter-protesters gather to meet White Lives Matter.)

2 The League of the South Still Advocates Southern Secession



Michael Hill, head of white supremacist League of the South, at #Shelbyville (https://twitter.com/hashtag/Shelbyville?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw). Used to be a history professor at historically black college. [pic.twitter.com/6whhuEmIyG](https://t.co/6whhuEmIyG) (<https://t.co/6whhuEmIyG>)

— Mark Pitcavage (@egavactip) October 28, 2017 (https://twitter.com/egavactip/status/924351036235616256?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The League of the South was founded in 1994, initially under the name “Southern League.”

The group denies being “racist”; the FAQs page on its website includes [the following](http://leagueofthesouth.com/faqs/) (<http://leagueofthesouth.com/faqs/>) question-and-answer combination:

Q. Is The League a “racist” organization?

A. “Racist” is a slur used by anti-Whites. We are pro-South and pro-White.

However, that same FAQs page says the League has “a firm belief in a kith & kin nation,” defined as “A particular people with a distinct culture living on their own established territory.” As for the “particular people” welcomed into the League, those would be “Anglo-Celtic” people “whose ancestors came from the British Isles.”

The League’s “Kith and Kin” page (<http://leagueofthesouth.com/kith-and-kin/>) goes into more detail: “we support a return to a society and civilization based on allegiance to kith and kin rather than to an impersonal state wedded to multiculturalism, diversity, the rights of man, and other similar abstractions. ... At its core, the South is British-Western European and Christian. Should this change, then the South, as we know it shall be no more.”

Despite all this, the front page (<http://leagueofthesouth.com/>) of the League’s website says “The League of the South is not a ‘neo-Confederate’ or ‘Southern heritage’ organization, although we certainly do honor our ancestors and our largely Christian historic inheritance as Southerners.”

3. Griffin Initially Criticized the League of the South for Being Insufficiently Racist



<https://twitter.com/occdissent/status/924395545883561985> (<https://twitter.com/occdissent/status/924395545883561985>)

Despite Griffin's current status as League of the South's public relations chief (under the Hunter Wallace name), the [Southern Poverty Law Center reports](https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/individual/bradley-dean-griffin) (<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/individual/bradley-dean-griffin>) that originally, Griffin criticized the League because it wasn't racist enough for him. In 2010, Griffin wrote "What finally soured me on the League of the South was their unwillingness to defend White Southerners as a racial and ethnic group. They only wanted to talk about Southern culture. I remember reading a League position paper somewhere which proposed a multiracial Confederacy (White, Black, Hispanic) based on social equality. If that is the ultimate goal of Southern independence, why bother to restore the Confederacy?"

Griffin was born in 1980 and grew up in Eufaula, Alabama. In a [December 2016 essay](http://www.occidentaldissent.com/2016/12/15/my-alt-right-biography/) (<http://www.occidentaldissent.com/2016/12/15/my-alt-right-biography/>) titled "My Alt-Right Biography," which he published on his website Occidental Dissent, he said that growing up in Alabama's Black Belt made him believe that "race existed and that racial differences were real," though he did not officially embrace white nationalist beliefs until his sophomore year of college, when he read a book by Pat Buchanan.

Griffin's "alt-right biography" makes no mention at all of the League of the South, let alone Griffin's earlier disapproval of it. He joined that group in 2012, according to the SPLC.

4. Under Previous Pseudonyms, he Founded The Phora, an Early Nationalist Discussion Forum

<https://twitter.com/occdissent/status/924348606219472896> (<https://twitter.com/occdissent/status/924348606219472896>)

ThePhora.net currently describes itself as a "general discussion forum" with a "race relations emphasis." As Griffin [explains](http://www.occidentaldissent.com/2016/12/15/my-alt-right-biography/) (<http://www.occidentaldissent.com/2016/12/15/my-alt-right-biography/>) in his alt-right biography, after being banned from various gaming message boards, he set up a VBulletin forum initially called "Freedom Forums" and going through a variety of name changes before settling on "The Phora" (which he later describe as being "like the 4chan



The SPLC adds that from 2001 to 2005, during the earliest days of the future Phora, Griffin posted under a variety of pseudonyms including Proziom, Fade the Butcher, nJEcTiOn and Daedalus, before settling on Hunter Wallace.

However, ThePhora itself banned “Fade the Butcher” (<http://www.thephora.net/forum/showthread.php?t=29819>) in 2007, for behavior considered bizarre even by white nationalist standards. On the thread discussing “Fade’s” forum ban, Phora poster “Il Ragno” said (italics lifted from the original): “Does anybody recall the time here that he posted a bizarre fake “conversation” with David Duke? In which he took a block of text out of some book or article Duke had written, chopped it up into bite-size chunks, and “responded” to each excerpt as though Dave had dropped by Chez Fade to sip juleps and be interviewed? (Nor was this a case of Fade doing one of his usual “deconstructions” and me misconstruing the intent. He actually peppered his responses with “Dr Duke, as I mentioned previously” and similar personalized touches designed to appear *as though this were an actual dialogue taking place.*)”

5. He Met the Lafayette Theater Gunman During an Involuntary Hospital Commitment



Occidentia Dissent

Brad Griffin (Hunter Wallace) and Renee Baum Griffin at their wedding, October 2013. (Screenshot from Occidentia Dissent (<http://www.occidentadissent.com/2013/10/21/married/>))

In April 2008 Griffin experienced what he later called (<http://www.occidentaldissent.com/2015/07/24/lafayette-shooter-rusty-houser/>) “the single most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to me”: while reading news of the then-current financial crisis, Griffin says he got “hyped up on caffeine,” which meant his “health appeared to take a turn for the worse,” and his parents found this all disturbing enough to take him to the West Central Georgia Regional Hospital in Columbus, where he eventually woke up in a “drug induced haze....thrown for a loop under the influence of psychotropic drugs which are used to treat mania.”

Griffin told this story in 2015 on Occidental Dissent, to explain how he happened to meet [John “Rusty” Houser](https://heavy.com/news/2015/07/john-houser-lafayette-shooting-louisiana-movie-theater-shooter-gunman-dead-suicide-record-photo-family-wife-girlfriend-children-criminal-white-job-facebook-video/) (<https://heavy.com/news/2015/07/john-houser-lafayette-shooting-louisiana-movie-theater-shooter-gunman-dead-suicide-record-photo-family-wife-girlfriend-children-criminal-white-job-facebook-video/>), the gunman who had recently killed two people and wounded nine more at a movie theater in Lafayette, Louisiana. (According to Griffin, when he saw Houser in the hospital, he initially confused him for SPLC founder Morris Dees.)

Three years after his hospitalization, Griffin was at a Council of Conservative Citizens confer-



Conservative Citizens is a white supremacist group which the SPLC calls (https://www.splcenter.org/fighting_hate/extremist_files/group/council-conservative-citizens) “the modern reincarnation of the old White Citizens Councils, which were formed in the 1950s and 1960s to battle school desegregation in the South.” (Charleston church shooter Dylann Roof later credited (https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/06/council-of-conservative-citizens-dylann-roof/396467/) the Council of Conservative Citizens website with inspiring him to adopt white supremacist beliefs.)

Brad Griffin and Renee Baum married (http://www.occidentaldissent.com/2013/10/23/wedding-clip/) in 2013. Though not as well-known as her husband, Renee Baum Griffin is also active in white nationalist causes; in 2015, for example (https://restoringthehonor.blogspot.com/2015/05/defenders-of-confederate-cross-prove.html), both members of the couple attended (https://www.facebook.com/3GsWorldwide/posts/710250138997783) a protest sponsored by a group called Defenders of the Confederate Cross intending to support displays of the Confederate battle flag.

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